MONMOUTH BOROUGH COUNCIL.

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MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1954.

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Council Offices,
18, St. James Street,
Monmouth.

September, 1955.

MONMOUTH BOROUGH COUNCIL.

Mayor. Mr. Alderman S. H. Bowen, J.P.

Deputy Mayor. Mr. Councillor G. E. Smith.

ALDERMEN.

Captain N. C. Elstob, M.A., J.P.

Mr. C. Hancocks.

Mr. B. Partridge.

COUNCILLORS.

Mr. W. L. Bigham.

Mr. B. Breakwell.

Mr. J. H. Dew.

Mr. D. L. Edwards.

Mr. R. H. George.

Mrs. V. M. Griffin.

Mr. T. J. Griffiths.

Mr. D. E. J. Pope.

Lady Twiston Davies, J.P.

Mr. R. P. B. Thomas.

Mr. E. I. Willis.

Town Clerk - R. Wallis, A.I.M.T.A.

Public Health Committee.

Chairman - Mr. Councillor G. E. Smith.

Mr. Councillor J. H. Dew.

Mr. Councillor D. L. Edwards.

Mr. Councillor R. H. George.

Councillor Mrs. V. M. Griffin.

Mr. Councillor T. J. Griffiths.

Mr. Councillor E. I. Willis.

Public Health Staff.

Medical Officer of Health - E. N. Dowell, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector - W. J. H. Biddle, M.I.Mun.E., A.R.San.I.

Additional Sanitary Inspector - W. A. Haigh, M.S.I.A., C.S.I.B.

Borough of Monmouth.

Monmouth.

To:- The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Monmouth.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of the Borough for the year ended 31st December, 1954.

The health of the Borough is satisfactory. There was an increase in the notifications of Pulmonary Tuberculosis but this was only small and probably was a result of the Mass Radiography unit in November, 1953.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Biddle and Mr. Haigh for their help and co-operation.

I remain,

Your obedient Servant,

E. N. DOWELL.

Medical Officer of Health.

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STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (acres)	7,101
Population.	
Estimated mid-year population.	5,740
Number of Inhabited Houses.	1,889
Rateable Value. (31st March, 1954)	£31,283
Sum represented by a Penny Rate.	£120

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS.

Live Births.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate.	45	40	85
Illegitimate.	4	2	6

The highest number of live births recorded in the last five years was 111 in 1952 and the lowest was 82 in 1953.

Still Births.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate.	-	1	1

There were 3 still births in 1952 and 1953.

INFANT MORTALITY.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate.		1	1
Illegitimate.	2		2

The following gives a list of infents deaths under one year of age; giving age at and cause of death:-

(i) Male.	6 days.	1. a. Congenital Atelectasis.
(ii) Male.	3 mths.	1. a. Broncho-pneumonia.
(iii) Female.	6 hrs.	1. a. Heart Failure.
		b. Prematurity.

In 1953 there was one death of an infant under one year and in 1951 there were 5 deaths.

DEATHS.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Deaths.	34	44	78

There were 63 deaths in 1953 and 81 in 1951. In 1953 there were 34 male deaths and 29 female. There were no deaths attributed to Pulmonary Tuberculosis for the second consecutive year. For the fifth successive year there were no deaths due to Pregnancy, Childbirth, and abortion. There were 21 deaths attributed to Coronary disease.

Of the total deaths 44 were 70 years or over at time of death.

Table II gives a classification of the causes of death and the number attributed to each cause.

Monmouth Borough 1954.

GENERAL EPIDEMIOLOGY.

Diphtheria.

No cases were notified. There were no cases in 1952 and 1953.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Of the children born in the years 1953, 1952, 1951 and 1950 at the end of the year 27, 39, 41 and 47 were immunised. At the end of 1953 the numbers immunised for these years were 4, 25, 39 and 46. In 1953 the total number of live births was 82, in 1952 - 111, and in 1950 and 1951 it was 84.

2 children born in 1954 were immunised by the end of the year.

The total number of children immunised in the Borough is still low.

One of the three Junior Schools in the Borough was visited on two occasions and nine children were given a booster dose, eight were given a first injection, and two were given a second injection.

Scarlet Fever.

No notifications were received. 2 cases were notified in 1953 and 4 in 1952.

Measles.

No notifications were received. There were 39 notifications in 1953 and 57 in 1952.

Whooping Cough.

One notification was received. There were 19 notifications in 1953 and 8 in 1952.

Immunisation against Whooping Cough has not yet been started.

Poliomyelitis.

One notification was received but this was not confirmed; the diagnosis was sub-acute bacterial endocarditis.

There were no notifications in 1953, 1952 and 1951.

Food Poisoning.

A notification of dysentery was received but it was found on submitting a sample of faeces to the Public Health Laboratory that the cause was a Salmonella Saint Paul.

Primary Notifications of Tuberculosis for 1954.

The following were the notifications of new cases received during the year:-

(i)	Male.	age 18 yrs.	Lungs.
(ii)	Male.	age 44 yrs.	Lungs.
(iii)	Male.	age 15 yrs.	Lungs.
(iv)	Male.	age 53 yrs.	Lungs.
(v)	Male.	age 50 yrs.	Lungs.
(vi)	Female.	age 23 yrs.	Lungs.
(vii)	Female.	age 21 yrs.	Lungs.
(viii)	Female.	age 30 yrs.	Lungs.
(ix)	Male.	age 75 yrs.	Lungs.
(x)	Female.	age 41 yrs.	Lungs.
(xi)	Female.	age 60 yrs.	Lungs.
(xii)	Male.	age 17 yrs.	Lungs.
(xiii)	Female.	age 20 yrs.	Lungs.
(xiv)	Female.	age 52 yrs.	Lungs.
(xv)	Male.	age 21 yrs.	Lungs.
(xvi)	Female.	age 47 yrs.	Lungs.
(xvii)	Male.	age 40 yrs.	Lungs.
(xviii)	Male.	age 20 yrs.	Lungs.
(xix)	Male.	age 5 yrs.	Lungs.

During the year 1953 there were 15 notification of new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 2 of Tuberculous Meningitis.

The Mass Radiography Unit visited Monmouth in November 1953 and 11 new cases, 6 male and 5 female, were notified in the quarter ending the 31-3-54.

There were no deaths attributed to any form of Tuberculosis.

National Assistance Act, 1948. Section 47.

Great difficulty was experienced in obtaining accommodation under the above Act.

An application was made to the North Monmouthshire Hospital Management Committee for a chronic sick bed under the above Act on the 15-3-54. As this Committee have no chronic sick beds in their area, it was not until the 9-10-54 that the patient was admitted to a bed in St. David's Hospital, Brecon.

It is thought that greater use could be made of beds in areas where the demand for chronic sick accommodation is not so great as it is in Monmouthshire.

Deaths in Monmouth M.B. 1954.

	Males.	Females.
Malignant Neoplasm, stomach.		1
Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus.	2	
Malignant Neoplasm, breast.		1
Malignant Neoplasm, uterus.		1
Other Malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	4	3
Leukaemia, aleukaemia.		1
Diabetes.	1	
Vascular lesions of nervous system.	2	9
Coronary disease, angina.	11	10
Hypertension with heart disease.		1
Other heart disease.	2	5
Other circulatory disease.	5	5
Pneumonia.	1	
Bronchitis.		2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.	1	
Gastritis, enteritis, and diarrhoea.	1	1
Nephritis and nephrosis.		1
Hyperplasia of prostate.	1	
Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	1	3
All other accidents.	1	
Suicide.	1	—
ALL CAUSES.	34	44

There were no deaths from Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion or any form of Tuberculosis.

ANALYSIS OF TOTAL CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) ACCORDING TO AGE GROUPS.

DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED. AGE GROUPS.							
	Under 1 yr.	1 2	3 4	5 9	10 14	15 24	25 and over.	Total.
Diphtheria.								
Scarlet Fever.								
Enteric Fever.								
Food Poisoning.			1					1
Pneumonia.	1							1
Puerperal Pyrexia.							1	1
Cerebro-spinal Fever.								
Acute Poliomyelitis.								
Dysentery.								
Ophthalmia Neonatorum.								
Measles and German Measles.								
Whooping Cough.				1				1
TOTALS.	1		1	1			1	4

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER.

The main water supply of the town is supplied by the Wales Gas Board, Monmouth Gas & Water Undertaking. This supply is a mixed one consisting of deep spring and river water, different parts of the town being supplied by different Service Reservoirs.

All supplies are filtered and chlorinated, at times the amount of free chlorine found in the supply at the tap is somewhat excessive.

The supply was regularly sampled for bacteriological examination, of 18 samples taken 14 were satisfactory and 4 unsatisfactory.

Generally the water is fresh and pleasing to the palate and is of moderate hardness.

4 samples were taken from other supplies, all were unsatisfactory. Users were advised to boil water before drinking.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Four new houses were connected to the sewer. Two new houses to septic tanks.

Sewage disposal is by settling tanks and contact beds.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

There is alleged pollution from the Council's Sewerage Purification Beds.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

There are 1,765 premises with Water Closet accommodation of which 1,488 are on the main drainage system and 277 are served by cesspools and septic tanks.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The area of collection remains the same as for previous years.

Weekly collections are made in the town, and fortnightly in outlying areas. Some of the business premises receive more frequent calls.

Whilst a large number of householders use proper lidded bins for the storage of House Refuse, quite a number use receptacles which are inadequate, insanitary and unsightly, and cause litter in the streets. It is suggested that remedial measures be taken.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

Refuse disposal is at the tip at Brooksholme, Osbaston.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S VISITS DURING THE YEAR ENDING - DECEMBER, 1954.

Nature of Visit or Inspection.		Totals.
Water supply.	GENERAL SANITATION.	54
Drainage.		74
Stables and Piggeries.		2
Fried Fish Shops.		8
Common Lodging Houses.		3
Tents, Vans and Sheds.		20
Factories.		12
Workshops.		1
Workplaces.		3
Outworkers.		7
Bakehouses.		4
Public Conveniences.		6
Theatres and Places of Entertainment.		1
Refuse Disposal.		2
Rats and Mice.		3
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits.		263
Under Public Health Acts.	HOUSING.	
No. of Houses Inspected.		10
Visits paid to above Houses.		30
Under Housing Acts.		
No. of Houses Inspected.		321
Visits paid to above houses.		43
Verminous Premises.		
No. of Houses Inspected.		5
Visits paid to above houses.		4
Miscellaneous Housing Visits.		23
Inquiries in cases of I.D.	INFECTIOUS DISEASES.	1
Visits re: Disinfection.		1
Miscellaneous Infectious Disease Visits.		4
Inspection of Meat.	MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION.	
Visits to Slaughterhouses.		438
Visits to Shops and Stalls.		32
Total Meat Inspection Visits.		94
Visits to:		
Butchers.		29
Fishmongers & Poulterers.		5
Grocers.		45
Greengrocers and Fruiterers.		6
Cowsheds.		1
Dairies and Milkshops.		13
Ice-cream Premises.		8
Restaurants.		21
Unsound Food.		48
Visits in Connection with Sampling.		
Milk - Bacteriological.		30
Milk - Tubercle Bacilli.		5
Miscellaneous Food Visits.		9
		1,689

HOUSING STATISTICS.

Number of houses owned by the Local Authority:-

(1) Under the Housing Acts.	353
(2) Other Powers.	9

Number of houses erected during the year-	—
(a) Total.	6
(1) By Local Authority.	Nil
(2) By other Bodies and Persons.	6
(b) With State Assistance under the Housing Acts-	
(1) By Local Authority.	Nil
(2) By other Bodies or Persons.	Nil.

1.- Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for defects (under Public Health Act or Housing Acts)	331
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.	404

2.- Remedy of defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers.	25

3.- Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.	2
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.	—
(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after the service of Formal Notice.	6
(a) By the Owners.	4
(b) By Local Authority in Default of Owners.	2
(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made.	10
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.	1

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 and Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1953.

(1) Number of separate houses or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made. 1

(2) Number of separate houses or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the house or room having been rendered fit. Nil.

Forty-one houses were inspected during the year; thirty under the Public Health Acts and eleven under the Housing Acts.

Notices served to remedy defects were as follows:-

	Verbal.	Intimation.	Statutory.	Total.
Housing Act.	Nil	9	2	11
Public Health Act.	10	16	4	30
Total.	10	25	6	41

Smoke Abatement.

No action necessary.

Swimming Pools.

One only, owned by Monmouth School, not open to the Public.

Eradication of Bed Bugs and Fleas.

(a) Number of Council Houses infested. 2

(b) Number of Private Houses infested. 3

All were satisfactorily treated with contact insecticide.

Schools.

All schools are on the main sewerage system, and all schools are on main water supply. Samples of milk and water were taken periodically.

Priory Street School for Boys.

The ventilation and lighting in this school are very poor.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.

Thirty-eight visits have been paid to Dairies and Milkshops.

Number of Retail Purveyors:-

(a) Resident.	6
(b) Non-Resident.	Nil.

Five Retail Purveyors hold licences for the sale of Designated Milk:-

Sterilised Milk	Nil
Tuberculin Tested Milk	5
Pasteurized Milk	3
Pasteurized Milk (Supplementary Licences)	Nil
Tuberculin Tested Milk (Ditto. ditto.)	Nil
Sterilized Milk (Supplementary Licences)	Nil

(b) Cleanliness and Bacteriological Examination.

Thirty-four samples were submitted to the County Bacteriologist for examination and report. The results are shown in the following table:-

Tests.	T.T. Pasteurized Milk and Pasteurized.		Tuberculin Tested Milk.		Ungraded Milk.	
	Passed.	Failed.	Passed.	Failed.	Passed.	Failed.
Methylene Blue Test.	14	2	12	6	NIL	NIL
Phosphatase Test.	16	-	-	-	-	-

(c) Examination for Tubercle Bacilli.

In addition ten samples were examined for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli; they were collected from dealers within the Borough. The ten samples were negative.

Ice-Cream.

The Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations came into force on the 1st May, 1947. These Regulations prescribe the method by which Ice Cream should be manufactured. The occupiers of all the registered premises within the Borough are aware of the requirements of these Regulations.

There appears to be a growing tendency for the sale of pre-packed ice cream in the town, and this should be encouraged as there is much less risk of contamination.

Total number of premises registered. 24

(a) Number registered for the manufacture, storage and sale of Ice Cream. 5

(b) Number registered for storage and sale of Ice Cream only. 19

Visits of inspection in connection with the above. 29

Meat Inspection and Other Foods.

438 visits were paid to the Slaughterhouse for purposes of meat inspection.

94 visits were also paid to Shops for inspection of meat.

Slaughterhouses.

The facilities for storage of hides and skins is very poor, but every endeavour is made to minimise the objectionable sight of these skins.

The premises are regularly sprayed with contact insecticides, and skins and bins dusted with insecticide powder, in an effort to reduce the nuisance from flies. The individual slaughterhouses, stock pens, and hanging rooms, drain to a trapped gulley connected to the sewer. Spillage over this gulley grid does take place but this is swilled off the causeway with water; thus any blood or manure which may find its way into the river is very much diluted and causes little pollution of the river.

During the year 585 heifers and steers, 53 cows, 5283 sheep and lambs, 1319 pigs and sows, 363 calves, were inspected.

5,937 lbs. meat and 4,837 lbs. offal, were condemned as unfit for human consumption.

The following miscellaneous foodstuffs were also condemned:-

wet fish 8½ stone, bacon 25 lbs., sausage 25 lbs., meat 67 tins, vegetables 374 tins, fish 105 tins, fruit 103 tins, preserves 7 containers, milk 74 tins, miscellaneous goods 196 tins.

Carcases inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (if known)	585	53	363	5283	1319
Number inspected.	585	53	363	5283	1319
All diseases except Tuberculosis:-					
Whole carcases condemned.	1	3	6	23	3
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	120	27	2	358	115
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tb.	20%	51%	2.2%	6.4%	8.7%
Tuberculosis only:-					
Whole carcases condemned.	1	2	-	-	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	6	10	-	-	49
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tb.	1%	1.9%	-	-	2%

Food and Drugs Sampling.

This work is carried out by the Weights and Measures Inspectors.

Samples taken consisted of:-

57 milks, 37 other foods, 4 ice-creams.

The Public Analyst certified all these samples with the exception of 2 milks and 1 ice-cream which failed to come up to standards required.

The two samples of milk contained added water, and were from one producer.

Legal proceedings were instituted and a conviction obtained with a fine of £2 on each charge.

The sample of ice-cream was found deficient in fat. Legal proceedings were instituted against the dealer and he was convicted and fined £1.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

Number of jobs carried out for rat and mice destruction were:-

Private dwellings.	96
Sewers.	64
Council Premises.	1
Business Premises.	1

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948.

Part I of the Act.

1.- INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises.	Number on Register.	Number of. Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers prosecuted.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	8	19	1	NIL
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	35	81	2	NIL
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
TOTAL.	43	100	3	NIL

2.- CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.
(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "Cases")

	Number of cases in which defects were found. Found.	Remedied.	Referred. To H.M. Inspector.	By H.M. Inspector.	Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	2	2		2	
Overcrowding. (S.2)					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	1	1		1	
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)					
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)					
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) (a) Insufficient.					
(b) Unsuitable or defective.					
(c) Not separate for sexes.					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork.)	1	1		1	
TOTAL.	4	4	NIL.	4	NIL